

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD.REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943.

The Minister of Health has requested that for this year interim reports only should be submitted and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

The Crude Death Rate is 11.82 as compared with 11.81 for the previous year and with 12.1 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality rate is 23.76 which is considerably lower than that for the Country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Measles.

For security reasons the population figures given in this report are not for publication.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

As in previous years every effort was made to persuade parents to accept immunization for their children and during the year 438 were immunized and 1296 Schick tested.

A complete card index system ensures that every child from one to fifteen years of age is recorded, particulars being obtained from the Registrar of births and checked by a list of all under fives from the Food Office. In addition a list is obtained once per month from the Food Office of all children under five who enter the district and also of those who leave. This information ensures that the records are kept up-to-date and accurate. The cards are kept in containers, each parish having a separate container and this facilitates arrangements for the children attending clinics in the various villages.

Every parent on the child's first birthday receives an explanatory leaflet with a stamped acceptance card enclosed for return. Those who do not reply or refuse are visited by the district nurse or voluntary helper. The same procedure is adopted for new entrants to

the district. Clinics are held every term in each village, parents being notified accordingly. In cases where the parents live at some distance from the clinic, by arrangement with the Women's Voluntary Services, cars bring the parents and children to the Clinic. Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer, attends all Clinics and in cases where it is impossible for the mother to leave home he visits and gives the injections there. Parents are also given the alternative of taking their children to their own doctors and the Council pays the doctors at the British Medical Association rate of 3/- per injection.

The procedure is similar for school children, each school having its own container. A complete list of children is obtained from the headteacher and every term the list is revised by obtaining particulars of entrants and leavers. Parents whose children have not been immunized are sent an explanatory leaflet and are visited if they do not accept. Clinics are held every term at the schools.

When children come from another area and the parent states her child has been immunized there, a request is made to the Medical Officer of Health for that area for particulars of immunization.

The prophylactic used is A.P.T. the dosage being .3 c.cm followed by .5 c.cm four weeks later. In view of recent investigations on dosage, the second dose has now been reduced to .3 c.cm.

For reasons given in previous years I regard the Schick test as being essential in a proper immunization scheme.

Every parent is given the opportunity of having her child tested three to six months after the second injection. In addition every inoculated child is retested on entering school unless the inoculation and test were done during the previous twelve months. Children who enter from another area are also tested. In addition, during the year, children who had been immunized two years or more previously were retested and the findings of this survey were published in the British Medical Journal on 4th December, 1943. In brief it was found that there was a loss of immunity with the passing of time, ranging from 4% after 2 years to 18% after 6 years.

At the end of the year in the one to five years of age group there were 1538 children and 97 per cent had been immunized and in the five to fifteen years group out of 3290 children the percentage was 95.

Private schools are included in the latter figure. Full particulars relating to the elementary schools and nurses areas are given later in this report. Nine elementary schools have a percentage of 100.

My thanks are due to the headteachers, the district nurses and the Women's Voluntary Services for their help and co-operation in maintaining such an excellent percentage of children immunized, and particularly to Dr. Duke who has devoted so much time and energy in co-ordinating the whole scheme.

One case of diphtheria occurred during the year, a child five years of age who had been inoculated in 1940 and at the last Schick test in 1941 was negative. The disease was of a mild form, a result fully in keeping with our belief in the value of immunization.

SCABIES.

Early in 1943 the Council made application to the Ministry of Health for Scabies to be made a notifiable disease and this was granted.

Notification by general practitioners to this office has been found to be of great assistance in dealing with this disease.

All cases are treated at the Haywards Heath or Burgess Hill Clinics by arrangements with the Councils concerned, or at the Sick Bay, Burgess Hill, two applications of Benzyl Benzoate on consecutive days being the routine procedure. All contacts in the same household are seen by the Assistant Medical Officer or myself, those found to be infected receiving two treatments and the others one preventive treatment.

If a certain school appears to be particularly involved an examination of the childrens hands is carried out and many cases have been unearthed in this way. The diagnosis is made by the aid of a magnifying glass. In cases where there is a doubt as to whether the mite is alive or dead the use of a microscope decides the issue. Two hundred and eleven cases occurred during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

A survey was carried out to ascertain the position with regard to piped water supply to houses in this district. Particulars relating to each parish are given later in the report.

Out of 7,841 houses in the district, 6,927 have a piped water supply, a percentage of 88. This may be compared with the percentage for all Rural Districts in the country, which is approximately 70. A piped supply is available to every parish with the exception of Newtimber where there are only 43 houses. All elementary schools are provided with a piped supply.

With financial assistance as proposed in the Rural Water Bill, at present before Parliament, it should be possible to obtain piped supplies to many of the houses at present without such a supply.

Monthly samples of water are taken from all public supplies and during the year all were satisfactory. Seventy-nine samples were taken from private supplies and of these forty-nine were found to be unfit and action was taken to render these fit.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Many parts of the district have a piped water supply and no proper means of disposal of sewage, resulting in recurring nuisances. In my opinion sewerage schemes for these areas should be put in hand as soon as possible after the war, and, where new houses are put on piped water sewerage schemes should be instituted at the same time.

HOUSING.

In the years from 1935 to 1939 a large number of houses were inspected and dealt with under the Housing Acts, full particulars being given in my Annual Reports. There are at present in occupation thirty-nine houses which were reported to the Council in 1938 and 1939 for action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936. The outbreak of hostilities prevented full action being taken. Since the beginning of the war very little repair work has been carried out, due to shortage of labour and restrictions on materials. It will be obvious therefore that housing conditions in general have deteriorated during the past four years, and an intensive drive will be required when conditions permit.

MILK SUPPLY.

Every effort was made to improve methods of production and delivery of milk during the year. Even with one Sanitary Inspector away on war service 722 inspections of dairy farms and dairies

were carried out and 243 samples taken for bacteriological analysis. Samples were principally taken at the retail dairy at the time of delivery from the producers, the advantage of this procedure being that at one visit it is usually possible to obtain samples from all the producers supplying the particular dairy. On receipt of reports on samples failing the methylene blue or coliform tests visits were paid to the offending farms with a view to finding out the cause. Over 90 per cent of samples taken passed both tests. Special attention was paid to the cleansing and sterilisation of utensils and bottles at the retail dairies. Steam is the only satisfactory means of sterilising bottles, and all retailers excepting those with a small delivery, employ this method. This has been achieved by educative and persuasive measures. During the year 8 dairies were reconstructed. A total of 117 samples were taken for a biological examination, 4 of these being reported as being positive. The County Health Department were notified of the positive results. Particular attention was given to milk supplies to schools.

I am indebted to Mr. Jones, Senior Sanitary Inspector for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and to the other members of the Staff and in particular to Miss Everson my Chief Clerk.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. Stott

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year 1943.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	74,360
Population estimated to middle of year	...	...	...	...	...	26,470
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£202,485
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£826
Density of Population (persons per acre)	..	...	...	...	...	0.36
Number of Houses	..	...	...	...	...	7,847
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	17.49
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	11.82
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	23.76

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

<u>Cause of Death:</u>						<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	1	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	...	...	...	10	4
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	5
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	...	...	...	...	-	1
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph. (male) uterus (female)	...	...	...	...	2	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	3
15.	Cancer of breast	..	...	...	...	-	7
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	15	21
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	1
18.	Intra.cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	22	16
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	36	57
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	3	3
21.	Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	9	4
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	7
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	-	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	...	...	...	2	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1	-
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	4	-
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	3
29.	Puerperal and post-abor. sepsis	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	1	3
32.	Conmal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	...	...	3	-
33.	Suicide	....	...	...	...	1	-
34.	Road traffic accidents	..	...	...	...	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	11	8
36.	All other causes	..	...	...	...	15	6
Totals						<u>157</u>	<u>156</u>

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1943 (Provisional Figures)

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Measles	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	16.5	0.51	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37	-	0.02	5.3	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36	-	0.02	7.9	58
146 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37	-	0.02	4.4	46
London ...	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27	-	0.02	10.4	58
Cuckfield Rural District	17.49	0.45	11.82	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.34	-	0.00	2.16	23.76

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows: per 1,000 Total Births

Puerperal	Others	Total
0.39	1.45	1.84

The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Rural District are as follows: ... Nil Nil Nil

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Table showing percentage of children immunized in areas and schools:-

(1)	<u>Nurses Areas - Children 1 - 5 years of age.</u>	<u>Percentage.</u>
	West Hoathly	100
	Bolney, Sayers Common	99
	Albourne, Hurstpierpoint	98
	Copthorne	98
	Scaynes Hill, Lindfield Rural	98
	Hassocks	97
	Handcross, Slaugham	97
	Balcombe	96
	Three Bridges	94
	Ardingly	92
	Poynings, Pyecombe	91
	Horsted Keynes	83
(2)	<u>Elementary Schools.</u>	<u>Percentage.</u>
	Albourne	100
	Bolney	100
	Copthorne	100
	Crawley Down	100
	Pyecombe	100
	Poynings	100
	Sayers Common	100
	Staplefield	100
	Twineham	100
	Ardingly	99
	Hurstpierpoint Senior	99
	Worth and Three Bridges Junior	99
	Balcombe	98
	Hurstpierpoint Junior	98
	Scaynes Hill	98
	Turners Hill	98
	West Hoathly	98
	Worth Senior	98
	Handcross	97
	Horsted Keynes	96
	Hassocks	94
	Slaugham-Warninglid	91

WATER SUPPLY - Position with regard to piped water supply.

Parish	Number of houses	Number of houses with piped supply.
Albourne	124	96
Ardingly	314	267
Balcombe	361	322
Bolney	274	226
Clayton	263	249
Cuckfield Rural	535	453
Fulking	85	34
Horsted Keynes	332	242
Keymer	835	826
Lindfield Rural	352	268
Hurstpierpoint	1074	1021
Newtimber	43	-
Poynings	88	64
Pyecombe	73	65
Slaugham	450	420
Twineham	80	67
West Hoathly	433	380
Worth	2125	1927
Totals:	7841	6927

SANITARY SUPERVISION.

<u>Inspections:</u>	Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	867
	Infectious Diseases	...	...	365
	Verminous Houses	...	...	10
	Rats and Mice	...	...	248
	Factories	...	...	48
	Evacuation	...	...	66
	Miscellaneous	...	...	308
	Slaughterhouses	...	...	170
	Milk Supply	...	...	722
	Milk Samples (bacteriological)	...	...	243
	Milk Samples (biological)	...	...	117

Other Foods: During the year 247 visits were made to food preparing places. The following articles of food were condemned:-

Tinned meats	...	...	...	...	344 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs
Imported mutton	...	...	...	...	40	"
Fish	...	...	...	...	21	stone
Fruit pies	...	...	...	...	240	
Pearl barley	...	...	...	...	56	lbs
Flour	...	...	...	...	36	"
Peas	...	...	...	...	140	"
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	84	"
Sugar	...	...	...	...	140	"
Dried fruit	...	...	...	...	80	"
Rice	...	...	...	...	28	"
Tea	...	...	...	...	55	"
Dried eggs	...	...	...	...	15	"
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	48	"
Butter	...	...	...	...	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
Lard	...	...	...	...	20	"
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...	77	tins

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	53	47	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	4	3	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-
Pneumonia	7	-	-
Erysipelas	5	3	-
Encephalitis	1	1	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Measles	292	31	-
Whooping Cough	55	10	1
Totals	421	97	2

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Encephalitis	Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Opthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Totals
Albourne	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	5	24
Ardingly	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	9	63
Balcombe	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	14	-	18
Bolney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Clayton	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Cuckfield Rural	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	17	2	24
Fulking	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	7
Horsted Keynes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	43
Hurstpierpoint	20	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	13	18	53
Keymer	3	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	59	7	74
Lindfield Rural	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	12
Pyecombe	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
Slaugham	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	9
Twineham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
West Hoathly	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	33	8	45
Worth	7	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	23	4	39
Totals:	53	1	4	1	1	7	5	2	292	55	421

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	6	1	24	14	2	3	-	2	1	53
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	8	23	27	27	20	108	43	16	12	5	3	-	292
Whooping Cough	4	11	8	11	5	14	-	-	-	1	1	-	55
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	14	36	35	45	26	150	57	18	17	9	13	1	421

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1943.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	1
15 - 25	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	5	-	-	1	2	-	-
35 - 45	3	3	-	-	3	1	-	-
45 - 55	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
65 and over	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	15	8	2	5	10	4	3	1

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	Other Districts
Diphtheria	1	5	6	2
Diphtheria "Carrier"	-	3	2	2
Diphtheria Observation	6	-	1	1
Diphtheria Contact	-	1	-	-
Vincent's Angina	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	46	28	3	1
Scarlet Fever Observation	2	1	-	-
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis Observation	-	-	-	1
Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal	3	-	-	3
Meningitis, Observation	-	1	-	3
Meningitis "Carrier"	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	2	1	-	4
Jaundice	1	1	-	1
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	1
Sonne Dysentery Observation	1	-	-	-
Streptococcal Throat	3	1	-	1
Measles	13	6	12	14
German Measles	-	1	2	1
Whooping Cough	9	1	-	3
Mumps	-	-	-	2
Adenitis	-	1	-	-
Scabies	17	-	5	-
Totals:	105	51	32	41